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National Priority Chemicals Trends Report (2000-2004)

Foreword

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Why We Publish This Report

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Solid Waste (OSW) annually produces this *National Priority Chemicals Trends Report* to help states and EPA's 10 regional offices identify opportunities for reducing certain chemicals in wastes that we call *Priority Chemicals*, or PCs, as well as to inform the public of these efforts. These 31 chemicals (28 organics and three metals/metal compounds) are persistent in the environment, bioaccumulative in the food chain, and can be hazardous to human health in relatively small quantities. They are frequently released to water, air, and land as industrial wastes, byproducts or impurities. Many are difficult and costly to remove from the environment. In this Report, we analyzed the quantities and management of PCs that industrial and federal government facilities reported to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)¹ for reporting years 2000 through 2004. States and EPA regions can use this Report as a tool for identifying opportunities to minimize wastes, pointing the way to potential waste minimization partners.

About This Report

The sections of this Report discuss our strategic goals and PC trends, and present detailed descriptions of each PC. This year, we included a new section that profiles PCs generated within specific industry sectors; specifically, we profile the iron and steel industry. We plan to include additional industry sectors in subsequent editions of this Report. An index and list of exhibits at the end provides useful reference.

At the end of this Report, you will find a Customer Feedback Survey. We would be grateful for your comments so that we can continue to improve the *National Priority Chemicals Trends Report* as a tool for environmental improvement through even greater reductions in PCs.

¹ TRI is a publicly available EPA database that contains information on hazardous chemical releases and other waste management activities reported annually by certain regulated industries and federal facilities. TRI was established under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA) and expanded by the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990.